

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 15, and 19-26 are now present in the application. Claims 4, 5, 12-14, 16-18 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 19, and 20, the specification and drawings have been amended to improve clarity.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings which were received by the Patent Office on November 26, 2003. The Examiner indicates that the drawings received November 26, 2003 did not incorporate the approved changes of October 24, 2001. In response, Applicants enclose Replacement Sheets 1-8 which incorporate the approved changes of October 24, 2001.

In response to the Examiner's objection that the sheets of drawings should be numbered, the Examiner will note that the enclosed Replacement Sheets have the appropriate numbering which reflect that eight (8) pages of Figures are included.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to Fig. 15, Applicants have amended Fig. 15 so that the number "6" is not underlined.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the inconsistency between Fig. 14 and the description at page 24, lines 15-18, Applicants have amended page 24, lines 15-18 to not refer to the fourth embodiment of Fig. 8.

Based on the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

#### Description

The Examiner objects to certain informalities in the Disclosure.

First, the Examiner objects to the term "planar" as appearing in the 8<sup>th</sup> line of the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 14, that is, the Examiner requests that this term be deleted. In response, Applicants have deleted the term as per the Examiner's request.

Also, the Examiner objects to the inconsistency between Fig. 14 and the description at page 24, lines 15-18. As discussed above, Applicants have amended the description at 24, lines 15-18 to not refer to Fig. 8.

Based on the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Disclosure is withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 6 and 7 for containing informalities.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner finds that the subject of line 2 is redundant. In response, Applicants have amended claim 6 by deleting line 2.

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner objects to the presence of action verbs in the product claim. In response, Applicants have amended claim 7 by removing the action verbs.

Based on the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 6 and 7 be withdrawn.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph

Claims 1-3, 6-11 15 and 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph for being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner objects to the fact that it is unclear whether the absorbent member consists of only one sheet or is a member comprising an absorbent sheet. In

response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 19 and 20 to clarify that the absorbent member comprises the absorbent sheet.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended claims 19 and 20 by inserting the term "only" after the term "folding" at line 12 of claim 19 and line 12 of claim 20.

In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the above-amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact **Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq.** (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Docket No.: 0445-0271P

Appl. No.: 09/147,894

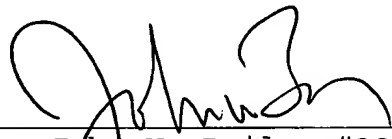
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Sheets of Drawings - Figs. 1-8